Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims:

1. – 12 (canceled)

13. (previously presented) An apparatus for managing a plurality of incoming and outgoing transactions at a network storage device, comprising:

computer readable storage medium; and

computer readable program code residing in said storage medium, including program code for defining a usage policy for prioritizing said plurality of incoming and outgoing transactions relative to one another.

14. (original) An apparatus as in claim 13, wherein said computer readable program code resides at a policy management server and further comprises program code for distributing said usage policy to said network storage device.

15. (original) An apparatus as in claim 13, wherein said computer readable program code further comprises program code for identifying said network storage device, and wherein said network storage device is a NAS device.

16. (previously presented) An apparatus as in claim 13, wherein said computer readable program code further comprises program code for prioritizing said number of transactions based on said usage policy.

17. (previously presented) An apparatus as in claim 16, wherein said computer readable program code further comprises:

program code for installing on a policy management server, said program code for defining a usage policy; and

program code for installing on said network storage device, said program code for prioritizing said transactions.

18. (previously presented) An apparatus as in claim 13, wherein said transactions are incoming transactions to said network storage device.

19. (previously presented) An apparatus as in claim 13, wherein said transactions are outgoing transactions from said network storage device.

20. (previously presented) An apparatus for managing a number of incoming and outgoing transactions at a network storage device, comprising:

     means for reading meta data from said number of incoming and outgoing transactions at said network storage device; and

     means for prioritizing said number of incoming and outgoing transactions based at least in part on said meta data, wherein said prioritizing means resides at said network storage device.

21. (original) An apparatus as in claim 20, further comprising means for transmitting said number of transactions based at least in part on a priority thereof.